

| Bath & North East Somerset Council | | |
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| DECISION MAKER: | Cllr Martin Veal, Cabinet Member for Community Services Cllr Charles Gerrish, Cabinet Member for Finance & Efficiency | |
| DECISION DATE: | On or after 11 th March 2017 | EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE: |
| | | E2941 |
| TITLE: | Neighbourhood Environmental Services - Approval of capital expenditure for 17/18 | |
| WARD: | All | |
| AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM | | |
| List of attachments to this report: | | |
| None | | |

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 To approve the 2017/18 provisional capital budget for Neighbourhood Environmental Services (NES) projects and service delivery.
- 1.2 Approval is now needed to release the provisionally approved capital funding to progress with projects & funding for vehicles, plant and equipment throughout Neighbourhood Environmental Services, in accordance with service delivery plans.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member for Communities and Cabinet Member for Finance and Efficiency fully approve the capital budget totalling £1,699K as follows:
 - a) £236k from the Councils provisional 2017/18 Parks Action Response scheme to invest in equipment and facilities to enable the Parks' service to deliver its S106 commitments and generate income from external contracts, fully funded from developer's contributions.
 - b) £123k from the Council's provisional Parks Equipment budget from 2017/18 for a three year programme of replacement of essential maintenance equipment for use by the Parks service, as part of an annual programme of end-of-life asset replacement.
 - c) £270k from the Council's provisional programme for Sydney Gardens, to deliver the development phase of a Heritage Lottery funded programme of

improvements; majority funded by HLF with 50k match funding from budget approved by SMD in 2015.

- d) Up to £250K from the Council's 2017/18 provisional programme for the waste project, for the purchase of equipment and plant for use in the recycling depot forming part of the kerbside recycling service.
- e) £715K from the Councils 2017/18 provisional programme for environmental services waste replacement, to fund vehicles identified for replacement in 17/18 of vehicles within the 5 year Neighbourhood Services vehicle replacement programme.
- f) £25K from the Councils 2017/18 provisional programme for litter bins, to upgrade and replace old litter bin stock to continue the work of improving the street scene within Bath & North East Somerset.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The capital expenditure detailed has been given provisional approval within the Council's 17/18 budget.
- 3.2 The business case for each of these proposals has been scrutinised and agreed by Divisional Directors Group and finance managers.
- 3.3 The action response team has a revenue model that changes service provision. This project will enable the Council to manage green spaces across the district, whilst investing in new equipment and the compost facility to maximise efficiency and generate income. Additional staff will be required as part of this model; they will be recruited on appropriate contracts as necessary. The expectation is that the salaries will be funded through income generated from additional work.
- 3.4 Item 2.1 (d) above (funded from the waste programme) is at a value that is within planned agreed limits and is contained within the budget agreed for the total programme.
- 3.5 The full revenue impact of the NES capital programme is reflected in uploaded 17/18 revenue budgets for the service, and modelled for 18/19 onwards where applicable.
- 3.6 The vehicle replacement programme replaces current end of life assets and all associated revenue cost therefore already exist in approved budgets.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 To fulfil its statutory obligations and service delivery plans, the Council operates a comprehensive range of frontline services. The Neighbourhood Environmental Services department carries out the functions of waste management, street cleansing, parks & grounds maintenance, fleet management and bereavement services.
- 4.2 Each of these functions requires appropriate vehicles, plant & equipment which are replaced on a schedule when life expired or when new technology identifies more revenue efficient operating practices.

- 4.3 The Service operates many capital assets, requiring capital expenditure to maintain and replace as required in accordance with Council statutory obligations & priorities.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Council's Neighbourhood Environmental Services require replacement vehicles, plant & equipment as identified annually to continue to provide frontline services efficiently.
- 5.2 Service reviews are regularly carried out to ensure the services continue to operate in accordance with the Council's priorities, and meet statutory obligations efficiently.
- 5.3 The Council's capital programme in Neighbourhood Environmental Services reflects the need for plant, vehicle & equipment required to operate the frontline services, and funding required to develop and maintain Council assets including parks, play grounds and allotment sites managed by the service.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The capital sum is required in 2017/18 to enable the functions detailed in section 2 to operate within statutory requirements efficiently, and for assets to be developed and maintained appropriately.
- 6.2 Vehicles, plant & equipment will only be procured if it is no longer economically viable to extend their life, or if new technology offers significant environmental or operational advantages.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 To delay the replacement of vehicles, plant and equipment - however this becomes a false economy as breakdowns increase and repairs become more costly. Service quality suffers accordingly.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 These items have been approved by Divisional Directors Group and included in the Council's provisional capital programme, agreed by the Council in February 2017.
- 8.2 The Council's Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer and Strategic Director for Place have had the opportunity to input to this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations for the specific elements of capital spend will be undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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| Background papers | <i>Council meeting 14th Feb 2017 - Budget & Council Tax 2017/18</i> |
| Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format | |